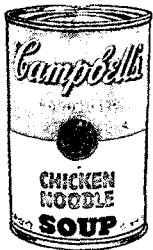


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Freeport Memorial Library



Theresa Press/Herald

Freeport Honoring hometown veterans

Freeport's American Legion William Clinton Story Post No. 342 hosted the annual Veterans Day Ceremony at the Freeport Recreation Center on Nov. 10. Veteran Les Endo who served in the Navy during the Vietnam War, sat his grandchildren, Logan, 7 and Kenny, 9. Story on page 9.

Freeport woman honors fallen friend

Travels to Washington to read names of soldiers killed in Vietnam

By NADYA NATALY
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With her right index finger, Barbara Horn traced the "V" inscribed on the cold black granite wall. The morning sun shone on her face as a brisk breeze tussled her silver hair on Nov. 10. She closed her eyes and took a deep breath. She was close, in a way, to her childhood friend for the first time since they played tetherball at Freeport's Northwest Park.

"He was the tall, skinny kid with the easy, wide grin across his face," Horn, who now lives in Long Beach, recalled of Viesturs Reikmanis, who grew up in Freeport and was as an Army mechanic in Vietnam. He was killed by "friendly fire" in August 1969 after his unit was attacked.

Kneeling in front of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., within arm's length of Reikmanis's name inscribed on the granite, she cried. "I just can't believe that I'm here and I'm doing this today," Horn said, as she wiped

away her tears.

In honor of Veterans Day, Horn was asked to read Reikmanis's name as part of an annual ceremony at the Wall. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, which built the Wall, asked her to attend.

"I knew I had to do this for Viesturs," she said as she waited for her turn to read the set of names assigned to her.

The memorial honors service members who died in the Vietnam War. More than 2.7 million Americans, including 265,000 women, served in Southeast Asia from 1964 to 1975. In all, 58,000 were killed and 304,000 were wounded. All of the names of the dead appear on the wall.

Visitors walked solemnly around the memorial last Friday, searching for the names of family members and friends at the Constitutional Gardens near the National Mall, just northeast of the Lincoln Memorial, where the memorial stands. Each year more than 3 million visitors come to pay homage to the men and women

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The bus strike: Freeport schools discuss replacing Baumann

In second week of walkout, no agreement

By NADYA NATALY
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Drivers for the Oceanside-based Baumann Bus Company continued their strike this week after failing to reach an agreement at Tuesday's negotiations between the company and Transport Workers Union Local 252.

Since last week, thousands of students in the Baldwin, Freeport, Hicksville and Rockville Centre school districts have had to fend for themselves in order to get to school.

Freeport schools held a special meeting to address parents' concerns on Tuesday night at Freeport High School. According to

school officials, with the help of two undisclosed companies and around seven Freeport bus drivers who crossed the picket line, Columbus and New Visions schools had restored transportation by Tuesday.

"The district has already initiated a few things," Superintendent

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